

July 29, 2021

Shalom, Chaver. Hello, Friend.

So much has happened since we reached out to you last year. The pandemic ravaged the world, and a vaccine is slowly saving it. We have witnessed considerable social upheaval. In this tempest-tossed world, we need an oasis like never before. We hope we have been and will continue to be that oasis for you.

“Reb Jason” has assumed his role as spiritual leader, and Rabbi Flom has remained involved as Rabbi Emeritus and provided invaluable counsel to our new Rabbi. Through their collaborative efforts and our hard work, a new day has dawned, a new vision has emerged.

Our new definition of what it means to be part of a community - a chaver (friend) instead of a “member” - has been a great success, resulting in an 80% increase in engagement. Our Children’s Center has a waiting list, our Dorothy and Henry Grau Center for Jewish Learning is creating quite a buzz, and new opportunities to shmooze, learn and connect with each other continue to expand. We are back!

Enclosed you will find our new “Chaver” registration form. We ask you to fill it out completely. Remember, we have eliminated dues and replaced it with t’ruma - give what you can. Any t’ruma, no matter the amount, entitles your household to 2 High Holy Day tickets, low-priced enrollment in the Menshketeer Academy for children in grades K - 6, for Who Is Bar/t Mitzvah and USY (grades 7 - 12), and other great benefits! (For more information on our Children’s and Learning Centers, please visit our website at www.bnaihayim.org)

We have calculated that the operating cost of the synagogue comes to more than \$3,000 per year per chaver. With our fund raising efforts, special events, and other sources of income, we can offer you, our chaverim, the joys of synagogue membership, under this voluntary system, but we still need as much financial support as you can provide.

May the upcoming New Year fill you with inspiration and resilience, as we nourish our sacred partnership together. Shana Tova!

Dr. Martin Lee, President

Rabbi Jason van Leeuwen